

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-10, 12, 14, 15, 18 and 19 have been amended. No new matter is introduced herein. Claims 1-19 are pending.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that: 1) addresses of users are associated with respective sections of the data structure, 2) access rights for each of the users are granted to access to the sections corresponding to the associated addresses of the respective users, where the sections of the data structure exist and include data prior to the access rights being granted and 3) the users are enabled access to the storage areas in the respective sections of the data structure associated with each users respective address, after the access rights are granted. Claim 1 has also been amended to clarify that the access rights are granted by: 1) permitting access to each of the users responsive to the associated addresses of the users with the respective sections of the data structure and 2) preventing any of the users from having access to any of the sections which have not been associated with the address of any of the users. No new matter is introduced herein. Claims 12, 18 and 19 have been similarly amended. Basis for the amendments can be found, for example, at page 3, line 16-page 4, line 25; page 7, line 23-page 8, line 2; and Figure 4 of the subject specification. Claims 2-10, 14 and 15 have been amended to correspond with respective claims 1 and 12.

Claims 1-3, 5-12 and 14-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Handsaker et al. (US 7,251,776). It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are patentable over the cited art for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1, as amended, includes features neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art, namely:

...associating addresses of users with respective sections of the data structure...

...granting access rights for each of the users to access the sections corresponding to the associated addresses of the respective users by: 1) permitting said access to each of the users responsive to the associated addresses of the users with the respective sections of the data structure and 2) preventing any of said users from having access to any of said sections which have not been associated with the address of said any of said users, wherein the sections of the data structure exist and include data prior to said access rights being granted...

...enabling each of the users to access the storage areas in the respective sections of the data structure associated with each users' respective address, after said access rights are granted. (Emphasis added)

Claims 12, 18 and 19 include similar recitations.

Handsaker et al. disclose, in Fig. 1, parameterized workbook 105 including parameter 110 (for input parameters) and results module 120 (for results such as value(s) from workbook cell(s), a chart or an HTML rendering) that are associated with a particular workbook 115. (Col. 8, lines 40-67.) Parameterized workbook 105 is used to manage dependencies between multiple interdependent spreadsheets. (Col. 7, lines 3-33.)

A user associates type information with parameter 110 and result 120, which "constrains the set of legal data values the system can use" for parameter 110 and for result 120. (Col. 9, lines 14-19 and Col. 10, lines 7-22.) A parameter can also be a "person type parameter" with attributes such as personal information. (Col. 9, lines 25-46.) A type system of parameterized workbook 105 can capture data source mapping information about how objects and record types relate to data sources, can "express arbitrary filters or restrictions on the set of object or record types" and can express data dependent constraints on parameters 110 and results 120. (Col. 9, lines 47-65.)

In other words, Handsaker et al. generate a new workbook 105 by retrieving data from one or more spreadsheets, subject to constraints on the input and/or results parameters. The constraints may include personal information, a set of values for the input range and/or output range and/or arbitrary filters or restrictions regarding a set of object or record types. (Col. 10, lines 7-34 and Col. 12, lines 28-67.)

However, Handsaker et al. do not disclose or suggest: 1) associating addresses of users with respective sections of a data structure, 2) granting access rights for each of the users to access the sections corresponding to the associated addresses, where the sections of the data structure exist and include data prior to the access rights being granted and 3) enabling each of the users to access the storage areas in the respective sections after the access rights are granted, as required by claim 1 (emphasis added). Handsaker et al. are silent regarding these features. Applicants' claimed invention relates to granting access rights to sections of a data structure corresponding to associated addresses of respective users, where the sections of the data structure exist and include data prior to the access rights being granted. In contrast,

Handsaker teach generating a new workbook by retrieving data from one or more spreadsheets, based on input and/or result parameter constraints.

Furthermore, Handsaker et al. do not teach that granting of access rights includes: 1) permitting access to each of the users responsive to the associated addresses with the respective sections and 2) preventing any of the users from having access to any of the sections which have not been associated with the address of any of the users, as required by claim 1. Handsaker et al. are silent regarding these features. Instead, Handsaker teach generating a new workbook by retrieving data from one or more spreadsheets. Thus, Handsaker et al. do not include all of the features of claim 1. Accordingly, allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 12, 18 and 19, although not identical to claim 1, include features similar to claim 1. Accordingly, claims 12, 18, and 19 are also patentable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 2, 3, 5-11 and 14-17 include all of the features of respective claims 1 and 12 from which they depend. Accordingly, these claims are also patentable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as respective claims 1 and 12.

Claims 4 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Handsaker et al. in view of Austin-Lane et al. (US 7,363,345). Claims 4 and 13, however, include all of the features of respective claims 1 and 12 from which they depend. Austin-Lane et al. do not make up for the deficiencies of Handsaker et al. with respect to claims 1 and 12. Accordingly, claims 4 and 13 are also patentable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 12.

Appln. No.: 10/762,879
Amendment Dated June 22, 2009
Reply to Advisory Action of April 1, 2009

LMK-100US

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 22, 2009

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